

The Pleasure of God

Isaiah 62:1-5



Relationships between unequals

What are examples? What might these relationships be like?
What is a “relationship” with God like?

Setting: Good news for a discouraged people

Isaiah 61:1-3: the poor, brokenhearted, captives, prisoners, all who mourn, those who grieve...

Isaiah 62:1-5

“For a very discouraged people, Isaiah’s poetic imagery leaves an overwhelming impression of joy, delight, righteousness, beauty, safety, and peace”

The Big Idea

God joyfully delights in His redeemed people

- > The people who were so far below Him
- > The people who used to be forsaken and desolate

I so often think...

If the best people do the best that they can they might be able to touch the hand of God, the rest of us have little hope of a real relationship with God



God didn’t just come down → God became like us (without sin)

“The Word (God the Son) became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.” John 1:14

“For this reason he had to be made like them, fully human in every way, in order that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in service to God, and that he might make atonement for the sins of the people.” Hebrews 2:17
God Himself became a human being so we can know the fullness of God!

God doesn’t just rescue us → He glorifies us!

“And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters. And those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified.” Romans 8:28-30

“God forgives his people, protects them, heals them, provides for them, restores them to their home, reconciles them to each other, transforms them so they are righteous, honors them, exalts them above all nations, and makes them a blessing to all nations, as he called them to be. But more than all these things...**God actually delights in his people! This is not kindness to the needy, but passionate love!**”

To know the love of God...

“For this reason I kneel before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name. I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the Lord’s holy people, **to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge**—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.” Ephesians 3:14-19

Application

Rejoice in the astounding love of God

Almighty God, the **Creator**, **Sustainer**, and **Savior** joyfully delights in all who put their trust in Him
Especially those who know their weaknesses and failures, yet still trust in Him

“the poor...brokenhearted...the captives...the prisoners...all who mourn...those who grieve”

By faith

Proven by the Son of God becoming a human being then suffering and dying for us

Be exclusively faithful to God and delight in Him

“Jesus replied: “‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment.” Matthew 22:37-38

“You shall have no other gods before me.” Exodus 20:3

Our response to God’s great love: “forsaking all others, keep only unto Him as long as you live”

Revelation 21

I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. (2)

It [God’s people] shone with the glory of God, and its brilliance was like that of a very precious jewel, like a jasper, clear as crystal. (11)

God the Son became a human being!

And He raises we who trust in Jesus to glory!

He presents the loyalty and delight of marriage as a model to think about our relationship...

to Almighty God as the one who delights in us!

Reflection Questions for later today or this week...

1. What are ways do you think of the relationship between Almighty God and ordinary people like us? Why might that be? For example, a friend of mine felt like God is a demanding coach who is never fully satisfied with the efforts or performance of his players. We can never truly please Him.
2. What is your reaction to the idea that God delights in His rescued people the way a bridegroom delights in his bride?
3. In what ways are you tempted to doubt or question this love? Why?
4. In what ways are you tempted not to be “exclusively faith to God and delight in Him”?

Conversation Starters

If there is a perfect creator God, what do you expect his reaction is or would be to ordinary people?